

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W  
-----120273 252234Z /66  
R 241612Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 067  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 16652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, EI  
SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF IRISH POLICE (GARDAI) COMMISSIONER

1. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED JANUARY 19 THAT THE HEAD OF THE IRISH POLICE, COMMISSIONER EDMUND GARVEY, HAD BEEN DISMISSED. GARVEY LATER TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED IN BY THE JUSTICE MINISTER AND GIVEN TWO HOURS TO RESIGN, WHICH HE REFUSED TO DO.

2. NO REASONS FOR THIS SUDDEN MOVE HAVE BEEN GIVEN EITHER BY THE GOVERNMENT OR GARVEY. GOI PRESS SPOKESMAN FRANK DUNLOP TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS NEVER TO REVEAL ITS REASONS FOR THE DISMISSAL, AND HAS SUFFICIENT LEGAL GROUNDS FOR THIS POSITION. MEANWHILE THE PRESS HAVE BEEN HAVING A FIELD DAY ON THE SPECULATION OVER THE WEEKEND. PUTTING TOGETHER THE PRESS REPORTS AND AFTER TALKING TO SEVERAL CONTACTS CLOSE TO THE POLICE WE CONCLUDED THAT:

(A) GARVEY WAS FACING A NEAR-MUTINY IN THE RANKS FOR HIS AUTHORITARIAN RULE. HE HAS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED ANY DISAGREEMENT WITH HIM A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE STATE. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO GET OVER 200 POLICEMEN

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INDICTED AND TRIED IN THE "SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT" (NORMALLY USED ONLY FOR TERRORISTS). NONE OF THESE CASES HAS COME TO INDICTMENT YET, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.  
(B) THE COMMISSIONER HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE NEW JUSTICE MINISTER, GERRY COLLINS, AND HAS EMBARRASSED THE MINISTER BY GIVING HIM MISLEADING OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION RESULTING IN THE MINISTER GETTING CAUGHT IN THE IRISH

PARLIAMENT AT LEAST TWICE FOR INACCURATE STATEMENTS. (C) ACCORDING TO A GOOD SOURCE GARVEY HAS ATTEMPTED TO COVER UP A SCANDAL IN THE FINGERPRINT SECTION OF THE POLICE. A JUNIOR DETECTIVE DISCOVERED THAT A FINGERPRINT IN THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR ASSASSINATION CASE HAD BEEN WRONGLY IDENTIFIED. THIS DETECTIVE AND TWO OTHERS WHO HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLICLY ALLEGED OTHER IRREGULARITIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THEIR JOBS AND GARVEY HAS REFUSED ALL BUT THE MINIMAL IN-HOUSE INVESTIGATION. (D) GARVEY STONEWALLED ON ANY KIND OF EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF WIDE-SPREAD ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY. THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY GARVEY'S REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE FULL COOPERATION GIVEN IN A SIMILAR INVESTIGATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

3. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 20 THAT GARVEY'S CHIEF DEPUTY, PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN, HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE NEW COMMISSIONER. THE CHOICE OF THE JOVIAL MCLAUGHLIN SEEMS TO BE INITIALLY POPULAR IN ALL QUARTERS. SHANNON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, POLICE FORCES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** REMOVAL OF IRISH POLICE (GARDAI) COMMISSIONER  
**TAGS:** PINS, EI, (GARVEY, EDMUND)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014